WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A biopsy device comprising:

a hollow sleeve adapted to receive a tissue piercing element therein, the sleeve comprising an open proximal end, a distal end, and a tissue receiving opening disposed intermediate the proximal end and the distal end; and

at least one electrode disposed on the sleeve.

2. The biopsy device of Claim 1 wherein at the sleeve has an open distal end.

3. The biopsy device of Claim 1 wherein at least one electrode is associated with the tissue receiving opening.

4. The biopsy device of Claim 1 comprising at least two electrodes.

5. The biopsy device of Claim 1 comprising first and second electrodes associated with the edges of the tissue receiving opening.

6. The sleeve of Claim 1 further comprising a connector for releasably attaching the sleeve to a biopsy device.

7. The device of Claim 1 wherein the at least one electrode is operatively connected to a source of electrical energy.

8. A biopsy device for the collection and retrieval of at least one soft tissue portion from a surgical patient, the biopsy device comprising:

a. a handle;
b. a piercer extending from the handle, the piercer having a distal tip for piercing tissue; and

c. at least one electrode disposed intermediate the handle and the distal tip.

9. The device of Claim 8 comprising a plurality of electrodes disposed intermediate the handle and the distal tip.

10. The device of Claim 8 wherein the distal tip is operatively connected to a source of electrical energy.

11. The device of Claim 8 comprising a first electrical connector for providing electrical energy to a first electrode disposed intermediate the handle and the distal tip.

12. The device of Claim 11 comprising a second electrical connector for providing electrical energy to a second electrode disposed intermediate the handle and the distal tip.

13. The device of Claim 11 comprising an electrical connector for providing electrical energy to the distal tip of the piercer.

14. The device of Claim 8 wherein at least one electrode is supported on a sleeve disposed about the piercer.

15. A method of performing a medical procedure comprising the steps of:

providing a hollow tissue piercing element having a sharpened distal end and a tissue receiving port spaced proximally of the distal end;

providing a hollow sleeve having an open proximal end and at least one electrode;

positioning the sleeve over the piercing element; and

positioning the sleeve and the piercing element within a tissue mass.

16. The method of Claim 15 further comprising:

providing a first, a second, and a third electrode on the sleeve;

providing current to the first electrode and to the second electrode while the third electrode is uncharged;

providing current to the first electrode and to the third electrode while the second electrode is uncharged; and

providing current to the second electrode and to the third electrode while the first electrode is uncharged.

17. The method of Claim 15 further comprising:

providing a computer operatively attached to the electrodes; and

utilizing the computer to sequence the charging of the electrodes.

18.The method of Claim 15 further comprising:

the step of removing a portion of the tissue mass.

19. The method of Claim 16 wherein:

at least one of said first, second, and third electrode comprises a piercing element.

20. The method of Claim 15 further comprising:

providing first, second, and third electrodes.